



ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

This publication is based upon the report given by
Cllr. Mrs Vicki Smith, Chairman of the West Wycombe Parish Council
at the Annual Parish Meeting on 5th May 2016.

Reports from The National Trust, West Wycombe Community Library,
West Wycombe Community Association, West Wycombe Events Team,
West Wycombe Parochial Church Council, West Wycombe Pre-School,
Downley Dynamos Football Club and our
County and District Councillors, can be found in the
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on the website

www.westwycombe.org.uk



@WestWycombePC

Parish Funding

This year we are starting on our 30th year as a parish council. We have achieved a great deal over the years and now much of our time is spent maintaining everything we have provided for our residents.

The playing field and play equipment, our burial ground, allotments, road crossings, grit bins and even dog poo bins we believe have contributed to the well being of everyone who lives and works in our parish.

Everyone I am sure has heard that County Councils, especially in the south of the country, have had to take big cuts in government funding over the last few years.

After the Government published their Spending Review in Feb 2016 it became clear that there will be even less money coming down to county and district councils and possibly, eventually these councils will not receive any government funding at all.

Over the next 4 years there will be a reduction of anything between 0-5% in spending power for local government with Wycombe District Council (WDC) expecting it to be a cut of 10.5% in real terms for them.

Over the last few years both authorities have cut back on their staff and outgoings tremendously which has inevitably affected services. We presume that the government will expect local authorities to increase council tax each year.

The rising bill for childcare and elderly care in Buckinghamshire means BCC are already spending over 70% of their budget on these two statutory duties. Something, perhaps, to take into consideration when we are complaining about the state of the roads in Bucks?

Bucks County Council indicated a few years ago that they hoped Parish Councils would take on many of the jobs we have come to expect from them.

At present parish and town councils are not capped on how much they can charge their residents for their part of the council tax. County and District Councils are capped which is why they would like to pass some jobs on to us. Of course parish council residents might have something to say about that if we start to increase our precept by a huge amount to cover these services.

High Speed Rail Two (HS2)

Almost 2 years ago Sharon and I on behalf of West Wycombe Parish Council joined with Princes Risborough Town Council and Bradenham Parish Council to try and stop HS2 Ltd bringing construction traffic for the HS2 train line through our parishes.

Each council petitioned Parliament with its objections. When subsequently WDC joined us we named ourselves the Wycombe A4010 Group and following many meetings we put our case to The House of Commons HS2 Select Committee on November 17th 2015.

We made our presentation as interesting as possible with photographs and a short film on the traffic and road conditions in our parish accompanying our petition because the Select Committee did not know the area and had sat through months of other petitions and were clearly bored with the same arguments.

We were fairly confident that HS2 Ltd would give us their assurance not to bring their construction traffic through West Wycombe Village from the M40 at Stokenchurch although, at the time of publishing, we are still negotiating with HS2 Limited and are prepared to take our case to the House Of Lords if necessary. Even with that assurance if all other roads were blocked for some reason they could bring up to 23 lorries a day through the village.

HS2 Ltd did not give us any commitment that they would not use the A4010 from Handy Cross. Which means through our Parish they could use Chapel Lane, West Wycombe Road and Bradenham Road.

Church Lane Parking

In an attempt to improve safe access to the top of West Wycombe Hill, the Caves and the School we have been working with BCC for four years to implement a safer parking scheme.

After much discussion, BCC provided a design for a double yellow line scheme which was implemented in July and will be enforced by parking attendants. This should mean safe passage for school children, residents, church goers and visitors to the hill and Caves and also provide easier access for emergency vehicles, delivery lorries, hearses and wedding cars.

It is hoped that in the near future, the National Trust will be creating a car parking area for their residents who live near the Caves.

Parish Council Accounts

Year Ending 31st March 2016

OPERATING INCOME	31/3/2016	31/3/2015
Administration	£39749.68	£39291.51
Allotments	£360.00	£366.00
Pedestal Playing Field	£300.00	£300.00
Burial Ground	£465.00	£300.00
Highway	£4172.59	£0.00
VAT Data	£3997.79	£4005.78
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£49045.06	£44263.29

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS SUMMARY		
Opening Balance	£9584.32	£12489.31
Income	£49045.06	£44263.29
Total	£58629.38	£57752.60
Expenditure	£44686.63	£47168.28
Balance	£13942.75	£9584.32
RESERVE BALANCES		
Current Year Fund	£4358.43	-£2904.99
General Reserves	£9584.32	£12489.31
Total	£13942.75	£9584.32

West Wycombe Parish Council controls its budget very carefully and constantly looks at ways of reducing our costs but maintaining our standards without putting too heavy a financial burden on our residents. The Parish Council currently costs every Band D household £74.91 per year.

The Parish Council has taken on some devolved services from Bucks County Council and in the future it looks as if we will gradually take on more of these if we want our parish to be maintained to the standard we have all become used to. This means that we have to start building up our reserves to be able to pay for the services which Bucks County Council currently fund.

The campaign to stop HS2 HGV construction traffic come through our parish added to our administration costs as many hours were spent in producing the evidence which we presented to the HS2 Select Committee in the House of

Parish Council Accounts

Year Ending 31st March 2016

RUNNING COSTS	31/3/2016	31/3/2015
Administration	£18332.37	£20580.66
Allotments	£1175.36	£969.60
Pedestal Playing Field	£7059.84	£4561.04
Burial Ground	£3665.68	£3350.94
Highway	£7218.34	£4474.58
Street Lighting	£4407.25	£4617.07
Reserves	£0.00	£4616.60
VAT Data	£2827.79	£3397.79
TOTAL PAYMENTS	£44686.63	£47168.28
CUMULATIVE FUNDS		
Barclays Community Account	£11313.90	£6956.81
Barclays Business Saver Account	£2628.85	£2627.51
Total	£13942.75	£9584.32

Commons in November 2015 and we are still working with HS2 Ltd to get these promised assurances guaranteed.

We purchased a new bench and concrete table tennis table for the Pedestal Play Area and carried out safety work to comply with the ROSPA Play Inspection which is undertaken every 12 months. We however, inspect the Pedestal Playing Field on a weekly basis and rectify any faults or damage as quickly as possible. We are delighted to see so many people of all ages using the area on a daily basis.

We have negotiated for a new telephone contract and we should see these costs reduced in the future and we are currently negotiating for the best deal we can get for energy for all our street lights.

Much of our expenditure goes on maintaining the Burial Ground, the Allotments and the Pedestal Playing Field. We live in a very green and fertile part of England and grass, trees and hedges need constant attention. We do not have any major projects planned for the future but we will ensure that we maintain our parish to a high standard for all our residents and the many people who visit us.

A Personal Message From The Chairman

I have always been grateful that the people who chose to become parish councillors over the last 29 years have been committed to making West Wycombe a good place to live and work. I believe parish councils only work well when their councillors love the place they live in and willingly give their time to making that place the best they can.

West Wycombe Parish Councillors literally spend hours of their time during the year keeping an eye on everything in our parish.

Roger Seymour checks on our burial ground, marking out the plots and checking the ground maintenance, he also keeps an eye on the allotments.

Neil Harris advises us on our countryside and he is always on hand to help with anything that needs clearing in a hurry for safety reasons.

Kate Cheshire checks and reports on the Parish Council defibrillator on the Village Hall and represents us on the Village Hall Committee.

Neil Timberlake makes sure we are up to date with the bus routes through our parish and we all report faulty street lights and potholes and anything that might detract from the smooth running of the parish.

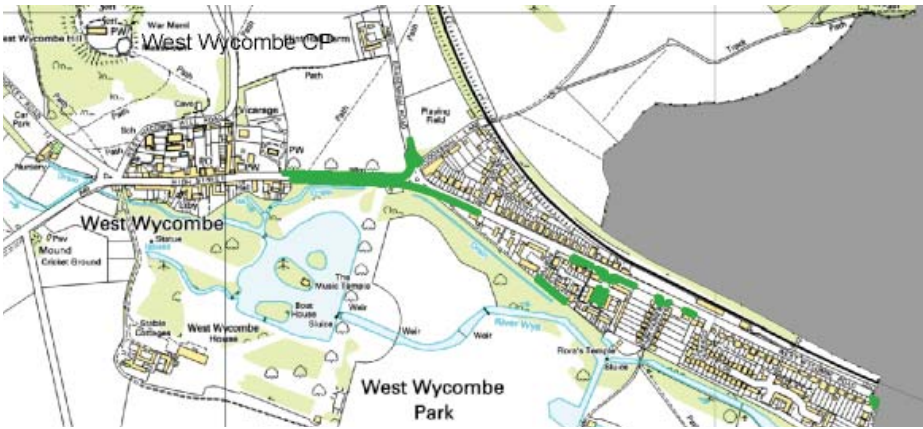
Simon Cope has been with us for a year now and he organised our very successful Clean for the Queen Day and keeps an eye on the playing field and reports weekly on the play equipment.

All your councillors are on other committees and organisations within the parish and outside it too and attend training and information courses to do their utmost to keep West Wycombe as up to date, interesting and vibrant as they can. **Parish Councillors do not get paid.** Our aim is to know that we have all done our very best to keep our community safe and the area where we live the finest it can be.

I would like to thank our parish councillors for their support and hard work. They deserve your thanks too.

Sharon, our Parish Clerk and Financial Officer, is a very important part of our team and does all the clerical work, liaises with contractors and Bucks County Council and Wycombe District Council. Sharon works part time for us and is our only employee. We would like to thank Sharon for all her hard work.

Devolved Powers



Urban Grass Cutting

Last year we took on grass cutting and sign cleaning on the roads in the 30mph areas in our parish with a yearly sum of money provided by BCC for us to do these jobs.

This money will diminish and eventually disappear over the next couple of years but we feel sure we can maintain our parish more efficiently by undertaking this work. Looking back, we believe we achieved this. As a small parish council with no workforce I don't think there is much more we can take on but we will have to see what happens in the next few years.

The map above shows the areas in dark green for which we are now responsible. All other areas remain the responsibility of Bucks CC because they are located outside the 30mph speed restriction.

Urban Hedge and Tree Management

Whilst we are not directly responsible for the cutting of hedges and trees which impede the footpath and roadway, we are now responsible for policing them.

It is the responsibility of home and business owners to cut back trees and hedges. If the Parish Council needs to contact an owner to instigate the work a deadline will be provided after which, the Parish Council will carry out the work and invoice accordingly

Parish Council Officials - 2016/2017

Chairman:

Cllr. Mrs Vicki Smith, 2 High Street, West Wycombe, HP14 3AE
Tel: 01494 532239

Vice Chairman:

Cllr. Neil Harris, 49 High Street, West Wycombe, HP14 3AG
Tel: 01494 524787

Clerk:

Mrs Sharon L. Henson, 18 Portway Drive, West Wycombe, HP12 4AU
Tel: 01494 448048

Members:

Cllr. Roger Seymour, 78 Chorley Road, West Wycombe, HP14 3AR
Tel: 01494 439081

Cllr. Neil Timberlake, 8 Portway Drive, West Wycombe, HP12 4AU
Tel: 01494 459004

Cllr. Mrs Kate Cheshire, 34 Portway Drive, West Wycombe, HP12 4AT
Tel: 07768 746150

Cllr. Simon Cope, 20 Rosemary Close, West Wycombe, HP12 4AG
Tel: 07890 898256

Cllr. Paul Brown, 52 Chorley Road, West Wycombe, HP14 3AR
Tel: 07949 078209

District Councillors:

Cllr. Mrs Jean Teesdale, 43 Green Lane, Radnage, Bucks HP14 6DJ
Tel: 01494 483298

Cllr. Ian McEnnis, 49 London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1BN
Tel: 01494 462834

County Councillor:

Cllr. Darren Hayday, 17 Woodlands Close, High Wycombe, HP12 4HB
Tel: 01494 462611